CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

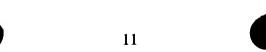
- 1. A method for entering information to a utilization device, comprising:
 - (a) providing a directional light beam,
 - (b) providing a receiver which comprises a collection of photodetectors,
 - (c) providing a means for generating a corresponding signal upon incident of said light beam on a said photodetector,
 - (d) providing a means for directing said light beam selectively at said photodetectors to generate said signals in desired sequence,
 - (e) providing a means for processing the signals from said photodetectors and transmit the result to said utilization device,

whereby desired information can be generated and entered into said utilization device.

- 2. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein said photodetectors are arranged centrifugally in geometry and provide means for determining the direction and distance of a desired movement of a cursor on a display device.
- 3. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein a means is provided to achieve the effect of simultaneous validity of the signals from more than one said photodetectors.
- 4. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein said receiver contains means for enclosing photodetectors and circuitry to prevent contamination from outside the electronic system without blocking said light beam entering the receiving ends of said photodetectors.
- 5. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein said receiver contains means for filtering light such that said signals from said photodetectors are only generated by said light beam.
- 6. The method of CLAIM 1 wherein said receiver contains means for providing audio or visual feedback to an operator upon the generation of each signal from said photodetectors.
- 7. An apparatus for entering information into a utilization device, comprising:

 (a) a light source which generates a directional light beam,

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- (b) an optical receiver which comprises a collection of photodetectors each of which is associated with a circuit that can generate a signal upon impact of said light beam,
- (c) a circuit that collects and processes said signals and transmit the result to said utilization device,

(d) a means for directing said light beam at specific selective photodetectors.

- 8. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein said photodetectors are configured in a centrifugal geometry to serve as a pointing device which provides means for determining the direction and distance of a desired movement of a cursor on a display device.
- 9. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein a means is provided for determining the simultaneity of signals generated from more than one said photodetectors.
- 10. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein said receiver further including a container which can prevent the contamination from outside the system without blocking said light beam.
- 11. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein said receiver further including light filters so that the signals from said photodetectors be generated only by said light beam.
- 12. The apparatus of CLAIM 7 wherein said receiver further including means for providing audio or visual feedback to operators upon the generation of a signal from a photodetector.